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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/20/02 8:47am
Subject: Please break-up the Operating System monopoly!

I would suggest that the following measures be taken against Microsoft:

1. Stop Microsoft from requiring computer manufacturers to place their operating system on all new computers. Presently it is very difficult to find a new system without windows unless you are willing to build it yourself. This excludes about 99% of computer users, and effectively grants Microsoft a monopoly right off the bat.
2. Require Microsoft to be more open with its Operating System code (i.e. the program itself) and File System formats. This would allow other manufacturers to design competing software without a lengthy process of "back-engineering" (that is to say guessing at the contents of what has been up to now a "black box"). Only then can other companies be able to design competing software at a reasonable price. This would benefit Windows users as well by giving them a greater variety of software (that would, incidentally, have fewer bugs as a result of the greater number of people that could correct the program for themselves as a result of being able to spot it in the program code itself).
3. Prohibit Microsoft from forming cartels with hardware manufacturers. Presently, many pieces of hardware are made to be specifically incompatible with Non-Microsoft operating systems. This is possible because part of the hardware function is replaced by software code that is kept secret by both the hardware manufacturer and Microsoft. Thus, someone wishing to try a Non-Microsoft Operating System often finds that key pieces of their hardware, (such as their modem) does not work, and are thereby forced to endure unnecessary hassle and expense, and thus discouraged from exploring alternatives.

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